

# Implementing a Fall Prevention Newsletter to Enhance Patient Safety

Mary Ellen O'Connell RN, MSN, MBA

*Lehigh Valley Health Network, Mary\_Ellen.OConnell@lvhn.org*

Claire Kukielka MS, CPHQ

*Lehigh Valley Health Network, Claire.Kukielka@lvhn.org*

Carolyn Davidson PhD, RN, CCRN, FNP-BC

*Lehigh Valley Health Network, Carolyn\_L.Davidson@lvhn.org*

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# Implementing a Fall Prevention Newsletter to Enhance Patient Safety

Mary Ellen O'Connell, RN, MSN, MBA; Claire Kukielka, MS, CPHQ; Carolyn Davidson, PhD, RN, CCRN, FNP-BC  
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

**“United We Stand”** – A quarterly newsletter created with a strategy to merge staff education, patient safety, quality improvement and engage multiple disciplines to maintain momentum of fall prevention efforts.

## LVHN Stats:

- Largest Academic community hospital in PA
- Certified Stroke Center
- 981 acute care beds
- 3 Hospital campuses
- Magnet Hospital
- Employees – 10,000 +



## List of Team Members:

**Our fall prevention workgroup is subdivided into 3 work groups:**

**Education, Clinical Practice** and **Data** and each team reports up to an Oversight Committee. Team members include nurses, technical partners, physical therapists, transport staff, unit directors, patient safety staff, physician champions, pharmacists, patient care specialists, patient care coordinators, and analysts from our health studies department. Facilitators from each subgroup as well as several interested members are the core planning committee for our newsletter.

## Strategy:

We started with a simple plan – create a brief newsletter to share current news, data, ideas, research pertinent to fall prevention that would maintain an attentive presence to meet the needs of our multidisciplinary providers.

## Development:

As we moved forward our creativity took over! Our planning group meets 2 months prior to the newsletter to create a “focus/theme” for the issue and to brainstorm ideas for story lines and decide who to best recruit to write the story. We developed a few “standard” articles –i.e. our patient safety staff writes a case study to share learnings from fall events. One of the pleasant surprises has been the popularity of our own fall data prepared by our data team. This data driven information helps us to develop more targeted interventions and drive critical thinking skills.

### Who writes articles?

- Pharmacists
- Physician champions
- Quality staff, data analysts
- Senior leadership
- Patient Safety staff
- Unit nurses/technical partners
- Physical Therapists
- Transporters
- Patient Education Specialist

After receiving positive evaluation and feedback with the first issue we decided to hold a contest to choose a name for our fledgling newsletter – we received over 12 submissions and the winner after voting was “United We Stand.”



The newsletter is disseminated electronically which serves multi purposes: users of every discipline read it electronically or the issue is printed and displayed on the unit. The newsletter is published quarterly and announced via electronic bulletin boards to reach all areas of the network. Each volume is approx. 17 -18 pages.

Next we engaged our Division of Education, applied for CE credit and now any nurse reading the issue and completing a post test is granted 1 CE credit.

## Outcomes:

- Assures being able to communicate and reinforce changes, enhancements, new products to staff in a timely and comprehensive manner
- Provides nurses opportunity to earn CNE credit
- Promotes engagement of fall prevention efforts among many disciplines
- Allows us to share our own post fall data which in turn helps develop more effective interventions/awareness
- Division of Education is able to generate a report summarizing the evaluation of each newsletter. This feedback helps us to further refine our efforts and meet the needs of our readers
- Readership typically 55% of nursing staff; we are unable to capture the readership accurately for pharmacy, rehabilitation, etc.

Data from TLC:		
Month/Yr of Newsletter	# of Nursing Staff that Received Certificate of Attendance	# of RN's that were Awarded CNE Credit
February 2011	123	578
June 2011	230	649
October 2011	273	488
February 2012	513	470